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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Petoefi Academy in Budapest

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 15 October 1948 to 5 February 1949

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 May 1950

REFERENCES

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PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 - 1 sketch on ditto, 1 typed list

REMARKS

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The following information on the Petoefi Academy in Budapest

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instruction course which was held there from 15 October 1948 to 5 February 1949:

1. Location:

Building at 23 to 29 Voeroeshadsereg utca, Budapest, which was an infantry cadet school until 1918, an army school from 1920 to 1932 and an army technical academy from 1932 until the end of the war. (For details see Annex 1).

2. Superior headquarters:

Political Main Department of the Ministry of National Defense.

3. Organization:

Commanding officer

Academy headquarters

Headquarters company

One-year instruction course

Three-month instruction course

Six-month instruction course.

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The academy headquarters consisted of the adjutant, the athletic officer, the paymaster and about ten other officers (instructors)

The headquarters company consisted of about 200 men, 30 horses for riding instruction, eight to ten horse-drawn vehicles, two passenger cars and two trucks.

Each company of the one-year course consisted of the company commander, the company headquarters and four platoons of 48-50 trainees each.

The three-month course was conducted by an officer with headquarters personnel and consisted of two platoons of 45 trainees each.

There were 60 trainees attending the six-month course. The participants were graduates of the Kossuth Academy.

The number of trainees varied, as some participants were dropped because of poor progress and bad political conduct.

	Number of participants	1st Company	2d Company	Three-month courses	Six-month courses
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15 October 1948	190 to 200	190 to 200	84	30
5 February 1949	120	120	51	30

4. Officers:

CO: Colonel Dr. Denes Felkai, about 40 years old, veteran of Spanish Civil War, lived in the Soviet Union and returned to Hungary in 1945. He was appointed in the Summer of 1949.

CO 1st Co: Maj Josef Szabo

CO of the three-month course: Major Istvan Nemeskeri-Kiss, about 30 years of age, agricultural college professor, instruction officer for history.

Instructor for political economics: Lieutenant Colonel Imre Tarjan, about 45 years old.

Instructor for history: Major Istvan Acs, about 40 years old.

Ordnance instructor: Senior Lieutenant Laszlo Szetendrei, about 28 years old.

Instructor for military organization: Major Istvan Frisz, about 35 years old.

Senior Lieutenant Laszlo Orban and Lieutenant Sendor Fekete also acted as instructors in political economics and history.

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5. Subjects:

Political economics: Instruction based on Das Kapital by Karl Marx.

Sociology: Development of social forms from antiquity to the present time was taught there. Special stress was laid on socialism.

History: Instruction in this field covered the time from the migration of nations up to the present. Special attention was paid to the Communist upheavals after World War I.

Party history: Instruction in this field dealt with the period from the establishment of the 1st International up to the present time. Special stress was laid on the great Communists, such as Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Rakosi was the only Hungarian Communist who was mentioned there.

Literature: Instruction in this field was confined to Communist authors.

Tactics: Instruction in this field focused on the tactical employment of the squad. The service manuals used were selected accordingly.

Terrain appreciation.

Organization: Instruction in this field was confined to infantry units up to and including regimental level.

Ordnance instruction: In this field the trainees were trained with weapons used in the Hungarian army. Most of these weapons were infantry equipment and light field pieces of Soviet type. New Soviet rifles were distributed to the trainees during this course.

Organizational administration: In this field special stress was laid on the exact knowledge of company administration and pay according to army regulations.

6. Instruction methods:

The instructors presented their subjects without using notes. They did not express personal opinions and no discussions were held. Every subject was repeated the afternoon of the same day. The trainees were then examined.

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Written examinations in the military fields of instruction were given every two to three weeks.

Practical military training included field training, practice, firing small arms (only field firing) and general training in engineering.

7. Selection for, and drafting into, the academy:

In a proclamation published in the Summer of 1948, the Minister of National Defense advised those 18 to 36-year-old workers who had attended the elementary school for a minimum period of six years, that they should enroll in the Petoefi Academy. Those applicants who had not yet served in the armed forces were first called up for one-year service. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a three-month course [REDACTED] Only those applicants who had passed the entrance examination with a "good" rating were selected for this course. All other applicants had to take the one-year course.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Comment:

Although old, this report is submitted because it is considered credible and is the first to contain detailed information on the Petoefi Academy.

2 Annexes: 1. Petoefi Academy, Budapest (sketch on ditto)

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